

What is claimed is:

1. A mammography system comprising:

a mammography apparatus for radiographing a mamma image of a patient by irradiating radiations and for recording the mamma image in a cassette;

a reading apparatus for reading the mamma image from the cassette; and

a controller for obtaining the read mamma image by controlling the reading apparatus, the controller being connected to the mammography apparatus and the reading apparatus,

wherein the mammography apparatus comprises a communication section for transmitting radiography performance information to the controller, the radiography performance information including first key information for relating the radiography performance information and radiographing order information to each other, and

the controller comprises:

a storage section for storing the radiographing order information including second key information for relating the radiography performance information and the radiographing order information to each other; and

a controlling section for relating the radiography performance information and the radiographing order information based on the first key information included in the radiography performance information transmitted from

the mammography apparatus and the second key information included in the stored radiographing order information.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein
the reading apparatus comprises a communication section for reading the mamma image and identification information of the cassette from the cassette, for relating the identification information of the cassette to the mamma image, and for transmitting the related mamma image and the related identification information of the cassette, to the controller;

the controller comprises an identification information input section for inputting the identification information of the cassette to be used in radiography; and
the controlling section relates the inputted identification information of the cassette to the radiographing order information, and relates the mamma image, the radiographing order information and the radiography performance information to one another based on the identification information of the cassette related to the radiographing order information and the identification information of the cassette related to the mamma image transmitted from the reading apparatus.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the communication section in the mammography apparatus transmits the

radiography performance information including the first key information to the controller at each time of radiography,

the reading apparatus comprises a communication section for transmitting the mamma image to the controller at each time of reading the mamma image, and

the controlling section in the controller relates the radiographing order information and the radiography performance information to each other based on the first key information and the second key information, and relates the mamma image, the radiographing order information and the radiography performance information to one another so as to make a radiographing turn of the mamma image correspond to a reading turn of the mamma image.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the first key information and the second key information include information of at least one of a radiographic part and a radiographic direction.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the mammography apparatus comprises:
an angle detecting section for detecting an angle of a radiographic platform to place a subject on; and
a determination section for determining at least one of the radiographic part and the radiographic direction based on the detected angle, and

the communication section in the mammography apparatus transmits the information of at least one of the radiographic part and the radiographic direction as the first key information to the controller.

6. The system of claim 4, wherein
the mammography apparatus comprises an angle detecting section for detecting an angle of a radiographic platform to place a subject on, and

the controller comprises a determination section for determining at least one of the radiographic part and the radiographic direction based on information of the detected angle.

7. The system of claim 4, wherein
the mammography apparatus comprises a part/direction input section for inputting the information of at least one of the radiographic part and the radiographic direction,
and

the communication section in the mammography apparatus transmits the inputted information of at least one of the radiographic part and the radiographic direction as the first key information to the controller.

8. The system of claim 4, wherein
the first key information and the second key

information include left-right information for indicating whether the radiographic part is a right mamma or a left mamma,

the communication section in the mammography apparatus transmits the radiography performance information including the left-right information to the controller,

the storage section in the controller stores the radiographing order information including the left-right information for indicating whether the radiographic part is the right mamma or the left mamma, and

the controlling section in the controller relates the radiography performance information and the radiographing order information based on the left-right information included in the radiography performance information transmitted from the mammography apparatus and the left-right information included in the stored radiographing order information.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the mammography apparatus comprises a left-right information input section for inputting the left-right information.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the communication section in the mammography apparatus transmits information indicating a radiographing turn of the mamma image as the first key information to the controller,

the controller comprises a radiographing turn input section for inputting the radiographing turn of radiography to be performed based on the radiographing order information,

the storage section in the controller stores the radiographing order information and the inputted radiographing turn so as to relate the radiographing order information and the inputted radiographing turn to each other, and

the controlling section in the controller relates the radiographing order information and the radiography performance information to each other so as to make the radiographing turn included in the radiography performance information transmitted from the mammography apparatus correspond to the radiographing turn related to the stored radiographing order information.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein
the communication section in the reading apparatus transmits the mamma image read from the cassette in a reading turn of the mamma image from the cassette, and
the controlling section in the controller relates the mamma image, the radiographing order information and the radiography performance information to one another so as to make the radiographing turn of the mamma image correspond to the reading turn of the mamma image.

12. The system of claim 2, wherein the controller comprises a display section for displaying correspondence among the mamma image, the radiographing order information and the radiography performance information that are related to one another by the controlling section.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein radiography is performed with a part/direction specifier attached to the cassette, the part/direction specifier indicating a radiographic part and a radiographic direction in the mamma image.

14. The system of claim 1, wherein radiography is performed with a part/direction specifier attached to one of the radiographic platform of the mammography apparatus and a pressure plate for compressing a mamma, the part/direction specifier indicating a radiographic part and a radiographic direction in the mamma image.

15. A mammography system comprising:
a mammography apparatus for radiographing a mamma image of a patient by irradiating radiations and for reading the mamma image as digital data; and
a controller for obtaining the mamma image, the controller connected to the mammography apparatus,

wherein the mammography apparatus comprises a communication section for relating radiography performance information to the read mamma image, the radiography performance information including first key information for relating the radiography performance information and radiographing order information, and for transmitting the related radiography performance information and the related mamma image, to the controller, and

the controller comprises:

a storage section for storing the radiographing order information including second key information for relating the radiography performance information and the radiographing order information; and

a controlling section for relating the mamma image, the radiographing order information and the radiography performance information to one another based on the first key information included in the radiography performance information transmitted from the mammography apparatus and the second key information included in the stored radiographing order information.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein
the first key information and the second key information include left-right information for indicating whether a radiographic part is a right mamma or a left mamma,

the communication section in the mammography apparatus transmits the radiography performance information including the left-right information to the controller,

the storage section in the controller stores the radiographing order information including the left-right information, and

the controlling section in the controller relates the mamma image, the radiographing order information and the radiography performance information to one another based on the left-right information included in the radiography performance information transmitted from the mammography apparatus and the second key information included in the stored radiographing order information.

17. A method for managing information in a mammography system comprising a mammography apparatus for radiographing a mamma image by irradiating radiations and for recording the mamma image in a cassette, a reading apparatus for reading the mamma image from the cassette, and a controller for obtaining the read mamma image by controlling the reading apparatus, the controller being connected to the mammography apparatus and the reading apparatus, the method comprising:

transmitting radiography performance information including first key information from the mammography apparatus to the controller, the first key information for

relating the radiography performance information and radiographing order information to each other;

storing the radiographing order information including second key information in a storage section of the controller, the second key information for relating the radiography performance information and the radiographing order information; and

relating the radiography performance information and the radiographing order information to each other based on the first key information included in the radiography performance information transmitted from the mammography apparatus and the second key information included in the stored radiographing order information, in the controller.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising:

reading the mamma image and identification information of the cassette from the cassette, in the reading apparatus;

transmitting the mamma image and the identification information of the cassette to the controller so as to relate the mamma image and the identification information of the cassette to each other;

inputting the identification information of the cassette to be used in radiography, in the controller;

relating the inputted identification information of the cassette to the radiographing order information, in the

controller; and

relating the mamma image, the radiographing order information and the radiography performance information to one another based on the identification information of the cassette related to the radiographing order information and the identification information of the cassette related to the mamma image transmitted from the reading apparatus, in the controller.

19. The method of claim 17, further comprising:

transmitting the radiography performance information including the first key information to the controller at each time of radiography;

transmitting the mamma image to the controller at each time that the reading apparatus reads the mamma image; and

relating the mamma image, the radiographing order information and the radiography performance information to one another so as to make a radiographing turn of the mamma image correspond to a reading turn of the mamma image after the radiographing order information and the radiography performance information are related to each other based on the first key information and the second key information.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein the first key information and the second key information include

information of at least one of a radiographic part and a radiographic direction.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising:
detecting an angle of a radiographic platform to place a subject on, in the mammography apparatus; and determining at least one of the radiographic part and the radiographic direction according to the detected angle, in the mammography apparatus,

wherein the transmitting the radiography performance information including the first key information includes transmitting information of the determined at least one of the radiographic part and the radiographic direction as the first key information to the controller.

22. The method of claim 20, further comprising:
detecting an angle of a radiographic platform to place a subject on, in the mammography apparatus; and determining at least one of the radiographic part and the radiographic direction based on information of the detected angle, in the mammography apparatus.

23. The method of claim 20, further comprising:
inputting information of at least one of the radiographic part and the radiographic direction, in the mammography apparatus,

wherein the transmitting the radiography performance information including the first key information includes transmitting the inputted information of at least one of the radiographic part and the radiographic direction as the first key information to the controller.

24. The method of claim 17, further comprising inputting a radiographing turn of radiography to be performed based on the radiographing order information, in the controller,

wherein the transmitting the radiography performance information including the first key information includes transmitting information which indicates a radiographing turn of the mamma image as the first key information to the controller,

the storing the radiographing order information includes storing the radiographing order information and the inputted radiographing turn so as to relate the radiographing order information and the radiographing turn to each other, in the storage section of the controller, and

the relating the radiography performance information and the radiographing order information to each other includes relating the radiography performance information and the radiographing order information to each other so as to make the radiographing turn included in the radiography

performance information correspond to the radiographing turn related to the stored radiographing order information.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising:
transmitting the mamma image read from the cassette from the reading apparatus to the controller, in a reading turn of the mamma image from the cassette; and
relating the mamma image, the radiographing order information and the radiography performance information to one another so as to make the radiographing turn of the mamma image correspond to the reading turn of the mamma image, in the controller.

26. The method of claim 18, further comprising displaying correspondence among the mamma image, the radiographing order information and the radiography performance information that are related to one another, on a display section of the controller.

27. The method of claim 17, further comprising performing radiography with a part/direction specifier attached to the cassette, the part/direction specifier indicating a radiographic part and a radiographic direction in the mamma image.

28. The method of claim 17, further comprising

performing radiography with a part/direction specifier attached to one of the radiographic platform of the mammography apparatus and a pressure plate for compressing a mamma, the part/direction specifier indicating a radiographic part and a radiographic direction in the mamma image.

29. A method for managing information in a mammography system comprising a mammography apparatus for radiographing a mamma image of a patient by irradiating radiations and for reading the mamma image as digital data, and a controller for obtaining the read mamma image from the mammography apparatus, the controller being connected to the mammography apparatus, the method comprising:

transmitting radiography performance information including first key information and the read mamma image so as to relate the radiography performance information and the mamma image to each other, from the mammography apparatus to the controller, the first key information for relating the radiography performance information and radiographing order information to each other;

storing the radiographing order information including second key information in a storage section of the controller, the second key information for relating the radiography performance information and the radiographing order information; and

relating the mamma image, the radiographing order information and the radiography performance information to one another based on the first key information included in the radiography performance information transmitted from the mammography apparatus and the second key information included in the radiographing order information, in the controller.

30. A method for managing information in a mammography system comprising a mammography apparatus for radiographing a mamma image of a patient by irradiating radiations and for recording the mamma image in a cassette, a reading apparatus for reading the mamma image from the cassette, and a controller for storing radiographing order information including second key information for relating radiography performance information and the radiographing order information and for obtaining the read mamma image by controlling the reading apparatus, when a plurality of mamma images corresponding to one patient are radiographed by using a plurality of cassettes, at each time of radiographing one of the plurality of mamma images in the mammography apparatus, the method comprising:

transmitting the radiography performance information including first key information, from the mammography apparatus to the controller, the first key information for relating the radiography performance information and

radiographing order information to each other; and relating the obtained mamma image, the radiographing order information and the radiography performance information to one another based on the first key information included in the radiography performance information transmitted from the mammography apparatus and the second key information included in the radiographing order information, in the controller.